

LOVELAND BROADBAND TASK FORCE
August 3, 2017 Minutes
City of Loveland Service Center Board Room – 200 N. Wilson Ave.
10:00 a.m.

Task Force Members Present: Doug Rutledge, Mindy McCloughan, Joe Wilson, Jason Frisbie, Richard Toftness, Dave Kavanagh (by phone)

City Council Members Present: John Fogle

Task Force Members Absent: Josh Smith, Fernando Pedroza, Julie Klein, Paul Langfield

City Staff Members Present: Kim O’Field, Briana Reed-Harmel, Derek Turner, Bill Westbrook, Joe Bernosky, Steve Adams, Tom Hacker

Consultants Present: Colman Keane (via phone) and John Honker (via phone)

Guests Present: Jon Lehman from Comcast

Call to order at 10:09 by Mindy McCloughan

Mindy McCloughan called for a motion to approve the July 6, 2017 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously after a motion from Jason Frisbie and a second from Mindy McCloughan.

Update on Broadband Initiative

Briana gave an update on the RFP for Private Partnership for Gigabit Speed Broadband. This closes on August 24. Mindy requested a copy of this to be sent to the group. John asked about Council communication with potential RFP respondents while the RFP is live. Derek stated that Alicia would send another email to Council, similar to what she sent during the RFI process.

Briana gave an update on the presentation of the conjoint analysis survey given to City Council on August 1. Mindy requested a copy of the contract with Jill Mosteller. Mindy commented she heard concerns from Council that they are concerned with getting a representative sample response to the survey. It was discussed how the City is working to accomplish getting this representative sample. Mindy would like to do a concentrated communication effort to the business community in an effort to increase participation and she will send emails to the Chamber membership regarding this survey. John Fogle suggested we send a press release to the Reporter Herald. Mindy suggested that the Thompson School District should send that out to their distribution list.

Briana stated that we expect to go back to City Council this fall with survey results and tighter financial model figures.

Overview of Meeting with OEDIT and the City of Loveland

Briana gave an overview of the meeting between the Office of Economic Development and International Trade for the State of Colorado and the City of Loveland. Tony Neal-Graves represented the state at this meeting. The state indicated that there was no funding to help a community the size of Loveland with broadband services, their funding focuses more on rural communities. Tony stated that he has some

anecdotal information regarding the importance of broadband to economic development from their outreach efforts that he would send to Loveland.

Review and Discussion of Task Force Purpose and Charter

The original purpose and Charter of the Task Force was discussed. A modified version was distributed to the group for discussion. Jason stated that different options come with different risks and it is not the Task Force's job to determine if and how the City should be involved with broadband services. Doug Rutledge moved to amend the current Charter to include under the Purpose the following language: "Recommend a ranked list of broadband options for City Council to consider." Jason seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Briana stated that the City estimates that by the end of September we will have the RFP and survey responses. These items will inform the financial models. Jason suggested that we need to have a work session as a Task Force to go over all items, reach a consensus as a group and write up a recommendation for City Council.

Other Discussion

It was discussed that in November we will likely have several new Council members. It will be important for the City to fully educate the new Council members to bring them up to speed on broadband. Briana stated that we intend to meet individually with each new Council member to provide education on this topic. Mindy suggested that we need to be prepared to immediately get on the calendars of these new Council members. Briana stated that we are also working on a community education plan.

Doug Rutledge asked if there was any model that would protect the public from having to pay higher taxes or utility rates if the utility should not be successful. It was discussed that there is no way to guarantee that. There would be no borrowing scenario where lenders would give funds in that situation and private partners would not be inclined to enter into an agreement like this. Derek stated you would also have a Tabor issue for an unfunded project. Doug asked this question because he has heard several Councilors state this.

Jon Lehman stated that effective August 1, 2017 Comcast is offering 1 Gig service in Loveland at \$89.95. The rack rate or rate card rate for this service is \$159.95. The upload speed for this service is 35 Mbps.

Fort Collins has released a business model. This document will be distributed to the Task Force.

Future Agenda Items

Due to the timing of the deliverable items from the take-rate survey and RFP, the next Task Force meeting that is scheduled for September 7 will be cancelled and a 3-4 hour work session should be scheduled for the Task Force to review the updated outputs from the financial models and then develop their recommendation to City Council. Location is still to be determined.

Adjourn Meeting at 11:31

Respectfully Submitted,
Courtney Whittet
Recording Secretary